

**Jon Bennion**

SENATE TROTTSON

EXHIBIT NO.

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DATE

4-10-07

BILL NO.

HB-529**From:** Colyer, Ken [KCOLYER@SMURFIT.COM]**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2007 2:05 PM**To:** jon@montanachamber.com**Subject:** HB 529

Smurfit-Stone Container Enterprises in Missoula supports HB 529 as a positive step toward Property Tax burden on Montana businesses. SSCC's Missoula mill incurs tax liability of over \$2.0MM annually. That is money that could be used for capital expansion, maintenance to enhance facility preservation, jobs training and community relations.

The Missoula Mill already compares unfavorably from a tax burden standpoint with the majority of SSCE's other 19 mills, and any reduction in burden can help when the company evaluates productivity and investment alternative within the mill division.

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